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**October 27, 2015**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **EPFD responds to HazMat incident**

### **Firefighters respond to HazMat incident at 3600 block of Copia**

*El Paso, Texas* – At approximately 11:03 a.m. on Tuesday October 27, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to the 3600 block of Copia when employees of a school reported an unknown substance inside an envelope/package received in the mail. The first unit arrived on the scene at 11:06 a.m. and the HazMat specialized unit was requested.

Students and staff at the school took shelter in place at their multi-purpose building. At 12:23 p.m. crews determined the substance was a non-hazardous medicated talcum powder.

There were no injuries to students, school employees or fire personnel. A total of 9 units and 25 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. El Paso Police and El Paso ISD Police assisted in this incident.

The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind citizens to call 9-1-1 if they ever discover an unknown substance inside a mail correspondence. Do not attempt to identify the substance by touching it, smelling it or tasting it. Instead, evacuate the area, move upwind if possible and notify people in nearby buildings.

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